introduced in various cities in a phased manner. Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are also progressively introducing auto LPG at their retail outlets in different cities as per the demand.

As on July, 2005, the State-wise details of CNG stations of JVs/PSUs are as under:—

State	City	No. of CNG stations
Delhi	Delhi	133
Uttar Pradesh	Noida	2
Maharasthra	Mumbai	106
Gujarat	Vadodara & Vaghodia	02*
Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada	01

*A few CNG outlets have also been set up by some private/multi-national companies in Gujarat.

As on 1.4.2005, 105 Auto LPG Dispensing Stations (ALDS) are also in operation in the country.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The following measures have been taken by the Government to forestall the misuse of domestic LPG cylinders in vehicles:—

(i) State Governments have been advised to impress upon district authorities the need to intensify their supervision of LPG driven vehicles and take action as per law in case of violations.

(ii) Supplies to domestic LPG distributors are regulated by the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) in line with the customer population and per capita consumption of that market, based on last year's sales for the same month.

(iii) Publicity campaigns are launched by OMCs from time to time to make the public aware about the hazards associated with the unauthorized use of domestic LPG cylinders as auto LPG.

Information on bio-fuels

899. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2278 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd March, 2005 and state:

(a) the details of target groups identified in the State of Andhra Pradesh and provided information on bio-fuels during the last two years;

(b) whether Detailed Project Report prepared by TERI has been placed before Planning Commission for its approval; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Rural Development, which is the nodal Ministry for implementation of the proposed National Mission on Bio-diesel has submitted the detailed project report prepared by the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) to the Planning Commission for their approval. It is premature to identify any target groups for implementation of the Mission as the Mission has not received all necessary approvals as laid down in Government procedures.

Foreign companies in oil exploration

†900. DR. CHHATTARPAL SINGH LODHA:
PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many foreign companies have applied for exploration of petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Under the fifth round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-V), 69 bids for 20 blocks (18 bids for deep water blocks, 7 bids for 2 shallow water blocks and 44 bids for 12 onland blocks) were received. A total of 27 foreign companies and 21 Indian companies (8 public sector undertakings and 13 private sector undertakings) have submitted their bids. The awards have been made on 18 blocks as per details given in the Statement (*See* below). The Production Sharing Contracts will be signed with the awardee companies after finalisation of the PSCs.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.